(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that this hike in freight charges would adversely affect the road transport industry; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (d) Freight transport in road sector is almost entirely in the private sector and freight hikes are determined by interplay of market forces. This Ministry has no information regarding freight hikes.

Shifting of petrol pumps away from National Highways

290. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA :
SHRI ABANI ROY :

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the NHAI has asked oil companies to move petrol pumps away from the National Highways to tackle the problem of road accidents;

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines and time-frame in this regard;

(c) the oil companies, response thereto;

(d) whether the causes of accidents on National Highways have been assessed;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the extent to which shifting of petrol pumps from NHs, is going to tackle the problem of road accidents ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) to (c) National Highways Authority of India has not asked oil companies to move petrol pumps away from National Highways. However Ministry of Road Transport & Highways in consultation with Ministry of

Petroleum and Natural Gas and oil companies is finalizing revised guidelines regarding the layout and other relevant issues for access to fuel stations from National Highways.

(d) and (e) An analysis of road accidents in the country reveals that about 84% of accidents are caused due to the human factors, that is, on account of fault of the drivers. Conditions of vehicles and road environment are other main factors, causing accidents.

(f) The revised guidelines for access to fuel stations are expected to enhance safe and uninterrupted flow of traffic.

National Highways in M.P.

†291. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the additional stretch of roads which are likely to be declared as National Highway in Madhya Pradesh by the year 2002-2003;

(b) the details regarding the roads which were recommended by the National Transport Committee to be declared as National Highway in 1984 in Madhya Pradesh and the number of roads which have been declared as Highways so far; and

(c) the number of proposals pending with Government for construction of roads of Inter-State importance and by when sanction is likely to be accorded in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) There is no proposal to declare any new National Highway in the country at present. 22 proposals received for declaration of National Highways in the State of Madhya Pradesh have been returned to the State Government for review on the basis of the revised criteria for declaration of new National Highways. The Government may however, consider declaration of a few State Highways as National Highways during the course of the 10th Five Year Plan from amongst the modified proposals to be received from various States keeping in view the traffic needs, *inter-se* priority and availability of funds.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.